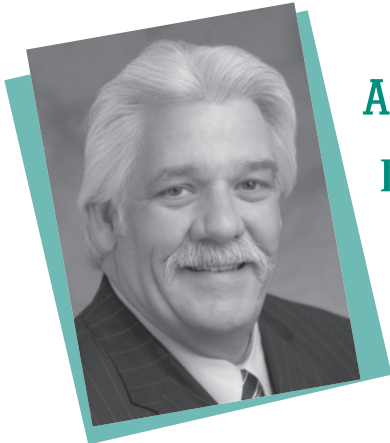




A newsletter from Phoenix City Councilman Claude Mattox, District 5 . Summer 2010



A Message from Councilman Claude Mattox

Dear Residents,

Over the past few years, Phoenix has faced many difficult financial decisions as a result of the current economic downturn.

I would like to thank the residents of District 5 for your continued support and for giving us important feedback.

Your recommendations and concerns have allowed us to make the necessary adjustments to our budget and minimize the impact to Phoenix residents.

The emergency food tax that went into effect April 1 was a necessary measure to save programs and services important to our community. In addition to the food tax, employee unions negotiated concessions for all city employees. This measure reduced employee salaries and benefits and has reduced the General Fund deficit significantly.

With hard work and sacrifices, the economic recession will soon be behind us. We must remember to work together as a city to ensure a brighter future.



Claude, Pat, Gracie, Renie and Rebecca

*Remember to always watch kids around water.
Have a wonderful and safe summer season!
Claude, Pat, Rebecca, Renie and Gracie*

Sincerely,

Councilman Claude Mattox

City of Phoenix Budget Overview

Prior to this recession, Phoenix had not experienced negative total General Fund revenue growth, but our economy has declined further and faster than was predicted at this time last year. As a result of this historic recession, Phoenix has experienced a two-year revenue shortfall of \$241.4 million through June of 2011. Actual General Fund revenues received year-to-date are far below what was budgeted.

My colleagues and I on the City Council, the Mayor and our Budget and Research Department took swift action to address this revenue shortfall early. One part of the solution was to implement a food tax. All other cities that border Phoenix have a food tax, while Phoenix hasn't imposed one since 1980. This action will help stabilize city revenues in good times and in recessions.

We asked the City Manager to quickly develop an allocation plan for these new resources that would

restore the most difficult programs proposed for cuts. We wanted the plan available for discussion at the 15 public hearings held throughout the city so that the Council could hear your thoughts on the plan. The allocation plan focused on devoting resources in the areas of fiscal responsibility; public safety; community enrichment, seniors, youth, libraries, and learning; and transportation and critical infrastructure.

In addition, our employee labor groups stepped up and agreed to 3.2 percent wage and benefit concessions for the next two years. This is more than \$60 million in General Fund savings in two years. Their sacrifice allowed us to restore even more of the programs and vital services important to Phoenix residents.

Public Safety is our highest priority and our budget plan, which relied on the new resources provided by the emergency food tax and employee concessions,

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meant that there were no sworn police or fire layoffs.

As a result of these actions, General Fund cuts needed to balance the budget were reduced to about \$64 million. While these cuts will be difficult, this level of cuts is significantly more manageable than the \$241 million shortfall we started with.

The Final Budget that we adopted eliminated about 550 positions. Nearly 100 employees retired earlier than planned, and several hundred employees have been “bumped” to new jobs, often at reduced pay. We have significantly less administrative staff, and far too often, fewer front-line staff. While we are focusing on innovation and efficiency, the high-quality service you have come to expect from our employees has been severely impacted by years of budget cuts.

As we navigate through these uncharted economic waters, it is important to work together and have patience. By doing so, we can continue the good things that are happening in District 5 even during this extremely difficult time.

Identifying Cost Saving Measures

The city of Phoenix will conduct the first external efficiency audits within the next few months using the \$500,000 budgeted funds authorized by the Mayor and City Council.

The Mayor has appointed me as a member of the Finance, Efficiency and Innovation Subcommittee in charge of overseeing the department audits and the city manager’s Innovation and Efficiency Task Force.

The purpose of the studies is to assess opportunities for innovation, improved efficiency and effective operations, while identifying cost-saving measures. Savings identified as a result of the efficiency audits will benefit the general fund and potentially maintain and/or restore programs and services citywide. The first study will be conducted for the Police Department.

A list of consulting firms with expertise in auditing large government organizations has been compiled to select a qualified vendor. The contract to proceed with the review will be considered by the City Council in the upcoming months.

The efficiency audit of the Police Department is expected to be completed by the end of the calendar year.

New Library Days and Hours

As a result of the city’s recent budget reductions, all Phoenix Public Library facilities remain open. However, all but Burton Barr Central Library are closed from one to two days a week.

Libraries days of service:

- Libraries closed on Friday - Cesar Chavez, Cholla, Ironwood, Juniper, Mesquite, Palo Verde and Saguaro libraries.
- Libraries closed on Sunday and Monday - Acacia, Agave, Century, Desert Broom, Desert Sage, Harmon, Ocotillo and Yucca libraries.
- Burton Barr Central Library will remain open seven days a week.

Libraries hours of service:

- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Mondays
- 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays
- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays
- 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. on Sundays

Burton Barr Central Library also made some service reductions, including making the Accessibility Center, which provides material for customers with disabilities, available by appointment only.

For more information, call 602-262-4636 or visit phoenixpubliclibrary.org.

Census 2010 – It’s in Our Hands!

Counting everyone living in the United States in the 2010 Census is important, because census results guide federal and state government investment in Arizona and Phoenix programs and services. Each person counted means \$400 per year for city services and programs. Those who are not counted in District 5 will negatively impact our state and city budgets by providing less funding to support health care, education, youth programs, transportation, job training

and public safety services.

That’s why from May through July, the U.S. Census Bureau will continue its work **IT’S IN OUR HANDS** to count everyone. Census takers will visit the households that either did not mail back a form or whose forms were not returned to the Census Bureau by the end of April.

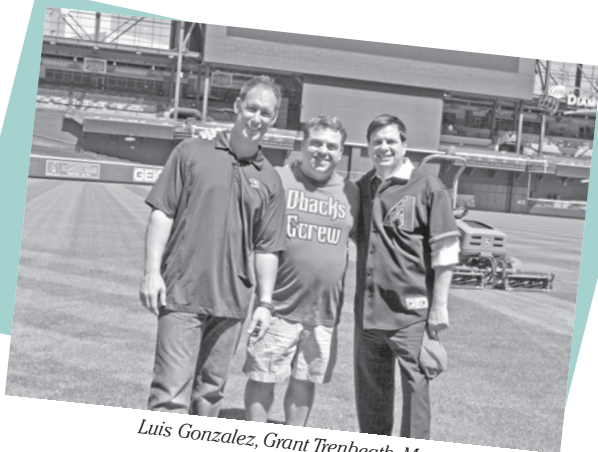
Census takers are people hired from your



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Help Put the Diamond Back in Your Neighborhood – Keep it Clean!



Luis Gonzalez, Grant Trenbeath, Mayor Phil Gordon

Phoenix neighborhoods are the heart of the city and that is why it is vital, especially with the downturn of the economy and the housing market, that we do our part to keep our neighborhoods safe and clean. The Neighborhood Services Department's 8th annual "Help Put the Diamond Back in Your Neighborhood – Keep it Clean!" campaign is designed to promote this effort and get everyone in the game.

Diamondbacks legend Luis Gonzalez joins the "Keep it Clean!" team this year – and we are hoping for another home run!

Recently, Gonzalez joined Mayor Phil Gordon and a PHX11 crew at Chase Field to shoot a public service announcement to support the campaign. View the PSA at phoenix.gov/cleanphx.

Below are some easy ways to get in the game:

- Get involved. There are many volunteer opportunities available that help make our neighborhoods beautiful. Find a project or create one in your area.
- Form a neighborhood association and gain access to many beneficial city services and programs.
- Take advantage of the Neighborhood Services Department's tool lending program. The city lends out tools and equipment at no cost to neighborhood and community groups to maintain or improve neighborhoods (including paint sprayers, weed eaters, paint rollers, paint, shovels, rakes, gloves, etc.).
- Attend free neighborhood clean-up workshops, such as preventing and removing graffiti, effective neighborhood communication, and how to create a Web page, fund raise and apply for grants.

For more information, visit phoenix.gov/cleanphx or call 602-534-4444.

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community by the Census Bureau to make sure every neighborhood is counted as accurately as possible. The census taker will have a binder with the addresses of households that didn't mail back a completed form. The census taker will visit each of those addresses and record answers to the questions on the form. If no one answers the door, a census taker will visit that home several times, each time leaving a door hanger with a phone number that residents can call to schedule the visit.

Every census worker will have proper identification and will only ask the questions that appear on the Census form. It only takes about 10 minutes to complete the questionnaire.

Being counted means federal and state funding back to Phoenix for roads, hospitals, schools, libraries, parks and more. Federal law guarantees that the census cannot be used against you in any way. Opening your door to a census taker opens doors for our community in many ways.

For more information, visit 2010.census.gov or call 1-866-872-6868.

Homeowners are Responsible for Keeping Yards Free of Over-height Weeds

Recent rains have resulted in more weeds throughout the city as we head into summer months. Homeowners and business owners are responsible for keeping properties free of dry vegetation, tumbleweeds, bushes, over-height weeds and tall grass (over six inches), per the city's Neighborhood Preservation Ordinance 39-7D. Dried and/or over-height weeds present a visual blight and can harbor insects and present a fire hazard.

Instead of using chemicals to rid your yard of weeds, you can trim them, dig them up or use boiling water, white vinegar or salt to wipe them out.

Neighborhood groups listed with the Neighborhood Services Department may borrow supplies to improve their neighborhood through the tool lending program. Tools include hedge shears, weed eaters, rakes, shovels, garbage bags and gloves. For more information, call 602-495-0323.

We do not suggest residents trespass onto a vacant property to remove weeds, because if they do they are doing it at their own risk.

To report over-height weeds and other blight violations, call 602-262-7844 or e-mail blight@phoenix.gov.



Crossing Busy Streets is Now Easier for Pedestrians

The Phoenix Street Transportation Department recently installed a new pedestrian signal at 59th and Clarendon avenues, which makes crossing busy streets easier for pedestrians.

The High Intensity Activated Crosswalk Pedestrian Beacon, known as the HAWK, provides better access to foot-traffic and local businesses without impeding traffic patterns.

About 100 students from Maryvale High School cross this intersection every day.

The HAWK looks a bit like the flashing red lights at railway crossings. It consists of a RED-YELLOW-RED signal format for motorists. Unlike traffic signals, the HAWK only operates when a pedestrian pushes a button, allowing vehicles to move freely when no one is crossing the street.

Here's how it works:

- When not in use, no signal light is visible.
- When a pedestrian pushes the button, a yellow light flashes for several seconds to warn approaching cars to slow down.
- Next, it will display a solid yellow light to give motorists enough time to stop.
- Then two solid red lights are displayed and pedestrians are given a WALK signal.



- After the WALK time expires, the two red indications will flash. Motorists should stop and once the pedestrians have crossed their half of the street, motorists may proceed.
- The signal then goes dark until a pedestrian pushes the button to cross again.

There are now four HAWK signals being used in Phoenix with plans to add two more this year.

For more information about the new pedestrian signal, contact the city's Street Transportation Department at 602-262-4659 or visit phoenix.gov/streets.



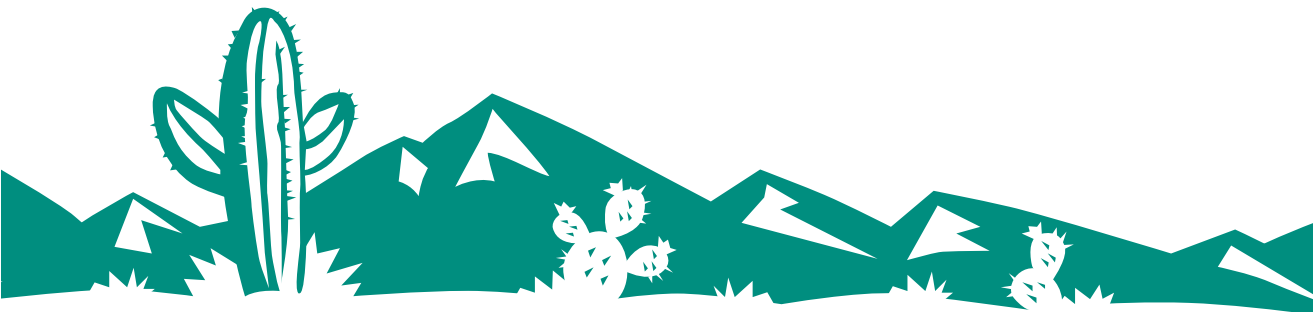
Water Safety Tips for Summer

You can keep your kids and loved ones safe this summer by following the ABCs of drowning prevention:

- ◆ A – Adult supervision: NEVER allow children to be alone near a pool or any water source. This includes bathtubs, buckets, toilets, ponds and canals.
- ◆ B – Barrier: Use an approved barrier to separate the pool from the house.
- ◆ C – Classes: Enroll your family in children's swimming lessons, adult CPR and life-saving classes.

Additionally, have life-saving devices near the pool, such as a hook, pole, or flotation device and keep large objects such as tables, chairs, tricycles, and ladders away from pool fences.

Always remember to watch your kids around water. For more life-saving tips, visit SaveRKids.org.



Wastewater Has A Lot to do With Your Household Energy

It may sound strange, but your wastewater has a lot to do with your household energy. Highly treated wastewater from Phoenix’s 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant has been helping to power the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station for years, and thanks to a new agreement, will continue to do so until at least 2050.

Phoenix, Arizona Public Service and Salt River Project completed a 40-year contract to pipe effluent (highly treated wastewater) from the 91st Avenue Wastewater Treatment Plant in Phoenix to Palo Verde, where it is further treated and recycled to meet the nuclear energy plant’s cooling needs. Palo Verde is the nation’s largest energy producer, and because of its desert location, is the only nuclear power plant in the world that uses effluent.

The agreement, which will be official once all parties sign it, also provides revenue for the maintenance and technological enhancement of the wastewater treatment plant, which serves Glendale, Mesa, Phoenix, Scottsdale and Tempe. It also creates much-needed revenue and jobs for each city. In terms of regional cooperation and positive economic and quality of life impacts, the new water agreement can be compared to other significant Valley wide projects, including the Valley’s freeways, light-rail transit system and regional fire-service agreements. Palo Verde provides substantial environmental benefits since it does not emit any greenhouse gases and because it makes efficient use of our water resources.

Simply stated, we reuse water instead of impacting our tap water supply.



State of Arizona Special Election – Proposition 100

Registered voters in Arizona will have the opportunity to vote on a proposed sales tax increase introduced by Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer during a special election May 18.

Proposition 100 proposes a 1 percent increase, for three years, to the Arizona state sales tax.

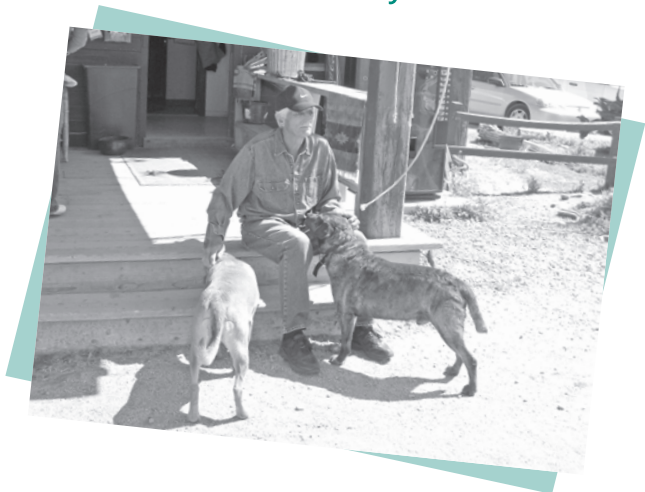
Supporters of Proposition 100 believe that the hike in sales taxes will help pay for primary and secondary education, health and human services, and public safety.

Opponents of Proposition 100 believe that the sales tax increase will unlikely be temporary as the measure proposes.

If the ballot measure does not pass, new budget reductions of about \$867.5 million would automatically go into effect, affecting primary and secondary education, state universities and health and care for the poor.

For more information about the election, please visit azsos.gov or call 1-877-THE-VOTE.

Community Hero



District 5 and the city of Phoenix would like to honor 71-year-old Bud Smith for being a neighborhood champion for many years.

Mr. Smith is known in his neighborhood for his contributions to people. In his spare time, he mows lawns for neighbors, cuts the hair of people who are visually impaired, and fixes and repairs things for anyone without expecting anything in return.

We congratulate Mr. Smith for a job well done, and we thank him for being a humble and a genuine good person to his neighbors. He is a true hero to our community!



Farewell to Pat Severance

On behalf of District 5, the city of Phoenix and its residents, I would like to thank my soon-to- retire chief of staff, Pat Severance, for her hard work and dedication to public service during the last 21 years.



Aside from her many responsibilities at City Hall, Pat has a passion for dogs and is a volunteer for Canine Companions for Independence, a nonprofit organization that provides service dogs to people with disabilities at no charge. She is currently raising her fifth puppy for CCI. Also, she has a certified therapy dog that visits kids at Phoenix Children’s Hospital.

Pat worked six years in the Neighborhood Services Department and has served as a City Council chief of staff for 15 years. Pat worked for Councilmembers Howard Adams, Craig Tribken, John Nelson and me.

District 5 and the city of Phoenix wish Pat good luck in her new adventures.

We will truly miss her and her puppies!



Alhambra School District Superintendent Retires

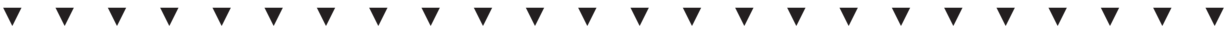
Dr. Jim Rice, superintendent of the Alhambra School District, will retire on June 30. Dr. Rice grew up in the Alhambra School District. He attended Andalucia School and graduated from Alhambra High School and Grand Canyon College.

Dr. Rice has spent almost his entire career in the Alhambra School District, serving as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, assistant superintendent, and superintendent.

Dr. Rice has seen the classroom evolve from a traditional room with a chalk board to one with computers, electronic boards and technology that give teachers immediate feedback on student progress. “I enjoy working with students, but also with their parents, who are truly inspired to join in the effort to ensure their children receive the best education possible, attend college and find a career that will give them a sense of accomplishment,” said Dr. Rice. “I will continue working in the field of education, but I’m not sure of the direction I will take at this time.”

Dr. Rice also relishes the opportunity to work with the Alhambra community to make it a better place to live.

District 5 and the city of Phoenix would like to congratulate Dr. Rice for his successful career and for helping our community for so many years. We wish him good luck in his future endeavors.



“West Side Story” is posted on the city’s Web site at phoenix.gov/district5. For information, disability accommodations or materials in alternate formats, call 602-262-7446 or 602-495-5810/TTY. Your comments, suggestions and story ideas are welcome by calling Councilman Mattox at 602-262-7446, e-mail council.district.5@phoenix.gov or mail to City of Phoenix, 200 W. Washington St., 11th Floor, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

